



COMMUNITY RAM NEWS

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First Quarter - 2024-2025



PBIS Thought of the Week



School Smart Goals

Smart Goal #1: During the 2024-2025 SY, the percentage of students scoring proficient or higher will increase by 5 percentage points as measured by the 2025 MCAP RELA assessment.

Smart Goal #2: During the 2024-2025-2024 SY, the percentage of students scoring proficient or higher will increase by 5 percentage points as measured by the 2025 MCAP Mathematics assessment

Smart Goal #3: During the 2024-2025 SY, the number of students with chronic absences will decrease by 2%.



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School Vision and Mission

Vision:

We are building a Nurturing, Supportive, Equitable, and Productive learning community where students, parents, staff, and community partners aspire to be mindful citizens, committed lifelong learners, and thriving scholars.

Mission:

Dodge Park Elementary School fosters a culture of high academic excellence for every student in a safe, welcoming, respectful, collaborative, data/technology-driven, green/healthy, and character-building environment to prepare skilled readers, writers, critical thinkers, and problem solvers, who are college, career, and service ready.

Goal:

Academic excellence for all students. No excuses, no blame.

Our School Motto remains “**GLEAMing a Culture of Excellence.**” We are committed to fostering a culture of learning in which students are taught grade-level content and are engaged equitably in learning opportunities that are affirming, meaningful, and rigorous.

Our Cores Values

We are RAMS. We are Respectful, Achievers, Mindful of our actions and others, and Service leaders in our community.



From the Desk of the Principal/Assistant Principal

Greetings RAM Family,

We are almost at the end of the first quarter, and we have achieved some small wins. Our overall attendance percentage for the month of September has improved, and we were successful in lowering our chronic absences to 17%. Thank you for helping us reduce our chronic and Habitual absences by double digits compared to the two previous school years.

Our students are improving their RELA foundational skills with the Lexia Core, and in Math, they have improved their DreamBox usage at the Kindergarten and First Grade levels. Way to go, primary Team!

We continue to monitor students' progress with the DIBELS platform, iReady, and Dreambox. We hope to close the performance gap by at least 2% by January. We ask for your continued support as we engage



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students in meaningful and relevant learning opportunities.

Students are demonstrating small but steady growth in some major subjects. Kudos to our teachers who are putting forth their best efforts to implement the curriculum and strategies like direct vocabulary, Decide and Defend, and collaborative conversations to demonstrate their thinking and reasoning in math.

Together we will continue to shine.

With best regards,
Josette H. Moise

Students' Accomplishments This Quarter

1. Students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First grade participated in Vision and Hearing screening on October 3rd and 4th.
2. CRI students went on a field trip to Oxon Hill Farm.
3. All Dodge Park students participated in the Character Parade on October 30th.
4. Students participated in the 1st RAMS Rock Out on November 1st.
5. The RAM Buck Store has opened as part of PBIS incentives for students. Students collect Ram Bucks from their teachers and other staff and can purchase items from the RAM Buck Store. Students earn RAM Bucks by following our school's RAMS core values.
6. Thirty students have joined the Dodge Park Choir, led by our vocal teacher Mrs. Cowan.



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Upcoming Events

The Dentist is coming to Dodge Park Elementary School on December 13, 2024, from 8:15 AM until 2:15 PM. Parents, please send back signed and dated consent forms as soon as possible. The deadline for accepting forms is November 29th.

Important November/December Calendar Event Dates

November 6-21 READ-A-Thon Fundraiser We are raising funds for a Marquis Thank you for supporting our Fundraising Reading initiative
November 20, Q1 Primary Awards Assembly
November 21, Q1 Intermediate Awards Assembly
November 22 Meet and Chat with Administrators @ 2:45 pm on Zoom (virtual)
November 27-29 Thanksgiving Break- Schools are closed
December 13 Dentist Visit Check in
December 20 3 hours early Dismissal



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December 23-January 3
Winter Holidays- Schools and Offices
closed.

Attendance Data Updates

CHRONIC ATTENDANCE THROUGH October 21, 2024 (HAS 10% or more of their enrollment days so far this school year.)

Chronic Absences and Habitual Absences Definitions

Chronically Absent Definition

A student is chronically absent if the student has been enrolled in a school for at least *10 days and is absent 10% or more of the school days* while enrolled at that school. For example, a student who is enrolled in a school for 30 days, and who is absent three of those 30 days, is considered chronically absent. A student can be counted as chronically absent in multiple schools, within the State, in the same year.

Note: If the student has missed at least 10% of school days in a quarter, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should be called or emailed by the teacher.

Habitually Truant Definition

A student is habitually truant if the student has been *enrolled in a school for 91 or more days in a school year and is unlawfully absent from school for a number of days or portion of days equal to or in excess of 20% of the school days within any marking period, semester, or year.* There may be legal consequences when a student is habitually truant.

Lawful Absences

1. Death in the immediate family (i.e., parent, guardian, brother, sister, grandparent), **or extended family and close non-relatives.**
 - a. Four school days shall be considered excused upon death of an immediate family member, extended family member or close non-relative.
 - b. The principal may grant extra days for extenuating circumstances.
2. Illness of the student. The principal may require a physician's certificate from the parent/guardian of a student that is reported absent for illness at least three school days. If absences reach six days a physician's certificate will be required.
3. Mental Health Day. Students may receive as an excused absence one (1) day of absence in each semester of each school year for a student's mental health needs.



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4. Pregnancy and parenting-related conditions
5. Court Summons
6. Hazardous weather conditions that would endanger the health or safety of the student when in transit to and from school.
7. Work approved or sponsored by the school, the local school system, or the Maryland State Department of Education, accepted by the Chief Executive Officer or the school principal, or their designee, as a reason for excusing the student.
8. Observance of a religious holiday
9. State emergency
10. Suspension
11. Lack of authorized transportation.
12. Health exclusion includes immunizations and other health-related communicable or contagious diseases. Students excluded as a result of immunization noncompliance will be marked absent by the teacher using Code (IM)
13. Absence due to Military Families. PGcps supports the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
14. Other emergency or set of circumstances which, in the judgment of the Chief Executive Officer or designee, constitutes a good and sufficient cause for absence from school, including but not limited to:
 - a. Civic engagement (limited to three days); and
 - b. College visits and interviews (limited to three days).

Unlawful Absence:

1. Students absent from school for any reason other than those defined as a lawful absence. Students who are removed from school by their parent(s)/guardian(s) **for more than ten (10) consecutive days for extended travel** and not enrolled in another school or educational program may be withdrawn, then re-enrolled upon their return.
2. **After ten (10) school days of consecutive *unlawful* absences in which the student's whereabouts are unknown**, the student shall be exited from the school with an Exit Status "W" and Exit Code 50. A PS105 form must be completed and filed in the student's record.

Why school attendance matters:

1. Academic achievement
2. Social development
3. Future prospects.
4. Real-life skills

School tardies are important too:

- Because they can significantly impact a student's academic performance by causing them to miss critical information at the beginning of class
- Disrupt the learning environment for other students



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- **Demonstrates a lack of responsibility and time management skills**
- **Potentially leading to negative consequences for their overall school experience and future career prospects**

Some of the other key reasons why school tardies matter:

1. **Academic impact:**
2. **Classroom disruption:**
3. **Negative learning habits:**
4. **Social implications:**
5. **Impact on school climate:**
6. **Potential for underlying issues:**

INSTRUCTIONAL Highlights

Upcoming Community Schools Projects

1. **Rise and Shine Academy-Care Program-** Already in progress - (20 students 1 hour before school and 1.5 hours after school. Only students in 2nd through 5th grade can participate. Began on October 14, 2024.
2. **Little Medical School—Pre-K** (6 weeks of Little Veterinarian School—Thursdays from 2:45 PM until 3:45 PM—12 students) begins in November 2024.
 - a. Kindergarten (6 weeks of Little Nutrition School - Thursdays from 2:45 PM until 3:45 PM-12 students) Begins in January 2025
 - b. First Grade (6 weeks of Little Doctor School - Thursdays from 2:45 PM until 3:45 PM- 12 students). Begins in February 2025
3. **Mainstream Educational Development Program-** 48 students in afterschool program receiving Math and Reading support 2hrs, twice a week) 16 weeks beginning in January 2025
4. **BCAUSEICAN-** 8-week sessions focusing on providing education on various technologies based on the needs of parents and adults. The family technology workshops are offered in English and Spanish
5. **Whiz—Kid Academy** is an 8-week program for grades 1-2 (a one-hour STEM Program during school hours) with 30 students.
6. **Waterford Family Academy-** is a technology-based early Reading, Math, and Science program for early learners. 15 total days)
7. **Parent University- English Classes for Parents Using Rosetta Stone Software** (Online classes, self-paced for adults who have English as their second language)



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Community Partners 2024-2025

1. Employ Prince George's County Inc.
2. International Rescue Committee
3. MilNet Youth Inc.
4. Solutions in Hometown Connections
5. Coalition for Public Safety Training in Schools, Inc.
6. Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington
7. SHARE Food Network-Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington
8. HIAS- International Headquarters
9. First Baptist Church of Highland Park
10. COSTCO-Woodmere
11. St. Joseph's Catholic Church- Good Samaritan Ministry
12. First Good Samaritan Baptist Church
13. Zion Church
14. Project Bridges
15. First Baptist Church Of Glenarden
16. SHABACH- Ministries and Empowerment Center
17. SMILE America (Mobile Dentist)
18. PG Health Department
19. Helping Hand Ministry (HHM)
20. Prince George's County Council- Office of Jolene Ivey
21. Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission
22. DC United
23. Leveling The Playing Field
24. PGCPS-School Board Representative for District 4
25. Metro Landover Bus Division